

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIEP-01 FEA-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01

TRSE-00 INT-05 PM-03 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

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R 220614Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4552

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE POUCH

AMCONSUL PERTH POUCH

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY POUCH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY TTKYO

USAEC GERMANTOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 7674

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, BEXP, AS

SUBJ: URANIUM ENRICHMENT: GOA APPROACH TO WESTINGHOUSE

REF: A. CANBERRA 7315

B. STATE 239361 NOTAL

C. CANBERRA 5638 NOTAL

D. STATE 185499 NOTAL

E. CANBERRA 4649

1. ON NOVEMBER 21, DCM AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH FRANK MARRIOTT, NEW WESTINGHOUSE AREA DIRECTOR RESIDENT IN SYDNEY, AND WALTER COHN, WESTINGHOUSE CONSULTANT ON ENRICHMENT, AT COHN'S REQUEST. WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS WANTED TO BRIEF EMBASSY ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPLORE POSSIBLE FUTURE WESTINGHOUSE INVOLVEMENT IN URANIUM ENRICHMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

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2. COHN SAID HE WAS RECENTLY APPROACHED INFORMALLY BY

SIR LENOX HEWITT, SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT MINERALS AND ENERGY AND MEMBER OF AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AAEC). HEWITT ASKED HOW WESTINGHOUSE MIGHT ASSIST GOA IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT US GASEOUS DIFFUSION AND GAS CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES. COHN BELIEVES THIS REFLECTS HEWITT'S DESIRE TO BALANCE INFORMATION GOA IS RECEIVING ON URENCO TECHNOLOGY WITH MORE DETAILS ON US TECHNOLOGY. MARRIOTT AND COHN LATER DISCUSSED THIS TOPIC WITH AAEC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING COMMISSIONER ALDER. HEWITT CONTACT, ACCORDING TO COHN, IS FIRST INSTANCE OF SENIOR GOA OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN ENRICHMENT TAKING THE INITIATIVE IN SEEKING MORE DETAILS ON US TECHNOLOGY FROM A US FIRM. THIS INTEREST PROBABLY RELATED TO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED JOINT AUSTRALIAN-JAPANESE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF LOCAL ENRICHMENT PLANT (REF A).

3. MARRIOTT AND COHN WANT TO FOLLOW UP BY MAKING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO GOA, OFFERING WESTINGHOUSE EXPERTISE ON ENRICHMENT AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE IN EXCHANGE FOR ASSURED ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN URANIUM. HOWEVER, THEY FEEL CONSTRAINED BY EXISTING USG GUIDELINES RESTRICTING US FIRMS FROM DISCUSSING ENRICHMENT WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST FOR ADVISE, EMBASSY OFFICERS SUGGESTED BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH USG OFFICIALS THERE. ANY MODIFICATION OF USG GUIDELINES WOULD HAVE TO BE REQUESTED IN WASHINGTON, WE EXPLAINED, BUT EMBASSY WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF THEIR LATEST DISCUSSIONS WITH US. MARRIOTT AND COHN AGREED WITH THIS ASSESSMENT AND EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH OUR RESPONSE. THEY AGREED TO RAISE MATTER WITH WESTINGHOUSE IN U.S.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: NOVEMBER 21 MEETING IS LATEST IN SERIES OF CONTACTS COHN HAS MAINTAINED WITH EMBASSY IN RECENT MONTHS (REF D). WE WELCOME INDICATIONS GOA ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN U.S. ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY. WHETHER SIMILAR GOA APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US FIRMS IS NOT CLEAR, ALTHOUGH COHN BELIEVES ONLY WESTINGHOUSE HAS BEEN CONTACTED. EMBASSY OFFICERS ASSURED MARRIOTT AND COHN THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, IN LINE WITH REFS B AND D, WE BELIEVE WESTINGHOUSE, AND ANY OTHER US FIRMS INTERESTED, SHOULD CLEAR ANY PLANNED PROPOSALS TO GOA ON ENRICHMENT WITH RELEVANT US AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. GREEN

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